

Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Threepence

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

No. 1937, May 5, 1956

NEWSPAPER EDITOR AT AGE OF ELEVEN

The trials and triumphs of young Stephen Fry

ONE of the handicaps of being an editor at the age of eleven is that with each new school term you have to abandon journalism and turn your attention to subjects like Latin and mathematics. That is the position of young Stephen Fry, who edits a small weekly newspaper in the Hampshire yachting village of Buckler's Hard; and as a result his paper has to suspend publication three times a year.

"The Buckler's Hard News—Hard News Only!" is the slogan of Stephen Fry, whose holiday weekly is now in its third year of publication. Its eight pages (size 5 inches by 4 inches) give times of local tides, record the arrivals of visitors to the village and report incidents such as:

**UNABLE-BODIED SEAMAN
CALLS ON OLDEST INHABITANT**

Mr. Smith, Buckler's Hard Harbour Master, wanted to kill one of his chickens and remembered that he had a poisoned thumb, so Mr.



Stephen Fry

Read, the oldest inhabitant of Buckler's Hard, who happened to be in the garden with Mr. Smith, kindly chased the chicken and killed it for him.

One page is devoted to Nature News, in which observations are explained by the editor. "The pheasants seem to like the stalks that are going to be wheat, so telling us that they think it is good," runs one item; and another: "The clump of blackberry bushes in front of the boatyard has been burnt down, probably so that car drivers can see whether there are any cars round the corner."

Among the "Things We Want To Know," the inquiring editor asks pertinent questions such as "At what age in life does one stop trying to look old, and start trying to look young?" or "What is the colour of day?"

A competition is another regular feature. A prize of a box of chocolates is awarded for the "neatest and most correct solution" of problems that frequently reflect new knowledge gleaned while the paper is in recess and the editor in the classroom. Readers must cope from week to week with questions on the Prayer Book, or the translation of a piece of Latin prose beginning "Carolus filius impigri agricolae bonus erat puer sed amabat malos amicos."

The prize for the latter, incidentally, was won by Viscount Caldecote. In this, as in all the other competitions, the editor's decision was final. As he explained (with artistic licence), "who could have known better what the best translation was, considering I'd had to write the thing out millions of times the previous term."

TUCK SHOP VERSE

Each school term sees the preparation of a special literary supplement—"An extra eight pages with only twopenny extra charge"—to mark the beginning of the next holiday burst of weekly publication. For this the editor's form-fellows are enrolled as contributors to lament or praise in prose and verse the qualities of, say, Dormitory Three, or The Village Tuck Shop:

*Weak in, weak out, weak everywhere,
You hear his clients roar.
For tuck and tuck and tuck and tuck
And more and more and more.*

(No doubt the first line falls into the oft-blamed category of "printer's errors;" no responsibility for the spelling should be placed either on poet or editor!)

The Buckler's Hard News began in handwritten form as a holiday hobby in January 1954. After three issues the fatigue of copying by hand—too reminiscent of school—plus the aim of doubling the circulation from six to twelve, led the editor to switch to typing, his right hand picking out the letters and the left operating the shift keys and space bar.

Stephen Fry in fact started to



All Good Brownies

The Good Quads—Jennifer, Elizabeth, Frances, and Bridget—have been enrolled in the Brownie Pack at their home at Nettleton, Wiltshire.

teach himself to type when he was six; and he made such a success of typing out an order form for several pounds' worth of toys to be sent, cash on delivery, that he signed it and posted it to a famous London store.

Although the typing looked professional enough, the signature made the store wonder, and they telephoned Mrs. Fry for confirmation that it was in order to deliver the toys. It was the first she had heard of the order, and confirmation was not forthcoming.

PRINTING TROUBLES

After three typewritten issues of the "Buckler's Hard News" had appeared, Stephen tried printing on a hectograph but found great difficulty in handling the jelly on which the impression of the page is made. Deciding there was no sense in half-measures any longer, he ordered a printing press.

By this time the editorial signature had matured sufficiently to raise no doubts from the store. But the result was the same: when his mother and father found out, they put a stop to the negotiations.

Continued on page 2

FLYING DOCTOR TO THE RESCUE

One of Australia's flying doctors, Dr. Lynn Dawson, recently had a grim struggle to reach a patient.

He set out from Charleville in a light Auster to treat a ten-year-old boy who had severed an artery by putting his arm through a window pane. But on reaching the settlement where the boy lived, the pilot found the ground too wet for his plane to land, so he had to make for the nearest settlement.

Dr. Dawson then rode nine miles on horseback across boggy country and even had to swim a creek before reaching the boy's home. Finding the lad too weak to be moved at once, he gave him a blood transfusion and then faced the problem of getting him to the plane.

The trip was made in a jeep, but three men had to carry the boy shoulder-high across the deepest creek. By dusk, however, the plane had brought doctor and patient to Charleville and recovery. It was all part of a day's work for a flying doctor!

EMERGENCY CONDUCTOR

On one of Sheffield's pay-as-you-enter buses, where passengers put their fare in a box because there is no conductor, a little boy put in a half-crown instead of a penny. He was very upset because it was mummy's half-crown.

But the driver came to his rescue by letting him stand at the front of the bus and collect fares from passengers entering until he had got his change.

ONE TON OF APPLE PIE

It has been a good apple season in Australia, and 3,131,000 bushels are being shipped to Britain.

In the Huon Valley of Tasmania, where about 80 per cent of Australian apples are grown, an Apple Festival was held to celebrate the good season. A monster apple pie weighing nearly a ton was baked—and eaten.

GOOD BEGINNING

Eleven-year-old Terence Williams of Chester jumped into the Shropshire Union Canal and saved a toddler from drowning.

"It's a good job I just had my old flannels and jersey on," he said. "I have begun learning to swim and can do 25 yards."

MR MACMILLAN TRIES TO MAKE US SAVE

Soon the House of Commons will be dealing with the Finance Bill, which moulds the Budget into its permanent legal form. It was a "Savings" Budget and the C.N. Press Gallery Correspondent here explains why.

MR. HAROLD MACMILLAN'S first Budget seemed to be a notable departure from the five Budgets of his predecessor, Mr. Butler.

The main reason was the remarkable innovation of a premium bonds plan. By next year no doubt many people will be buying their £1 bonds—up to a certain maximum, originally expected to be £250—in the hope of winning a prize, not to exceed £1000.

There is nothing new in this principle, but it would be a mistake to call the system a State

lottery, for bond purchasers can always get their money back. there is to be a new National Savings Certificate at 15s., rising to 20s. after only seven years instead of the present ten. New Defence Bonds carry 4½ instead of four per cent interest.

Legal fees on house purchase will be cut so that the less expensive homes can be bought at cheaper conveyancing charges. Self-employed people get tax-cut incentives to save for their old age.

(The decision to give two shillings a week more in family allowances for the third and subsequent children is dictated not by the need to save, but to do more for large families at a period of rising costs.)

Altogether, then, the emphasis is on Mr. Macmillan's motto: Save to be great. Many people, of course, deplore the introduction of "gambling" into national finance. But the Chancellor has argued that if people will not save by normal means unorthodox measures must be tried.

Why is saving so important? The Government gets its revenue to run the country from two main sources—from borrowing and from taxes. It borrows the money which we invest in Government securities and pays us interest on it. But the premium bond will not pay us interest.

If we do not lend enough to the Government we shall have to make up by paying taxes.

In his Budget the new Chancellor raised profits tax and tobacco duty. But that is only a foretaste of the extra taxes we must bear if we lag in savings.

To set an example the Government have themselves undertaken to make a cut of £100,000,000 in their own expenditure this year.

However we save, save we must. And the more we save the more we strengthen the Chancellor's hand to cut taxes in his next Budget.

HE WANTED A BOAT

Like many other Devon boys, eleven-year-old David Halestrap, of Tiverton, has wanted a boat for a long time. First he tried to buy a converted aircraft fuel tank from another boy, but could not tempt the owner to sell.

So David built a raft. But after only one excursion on the River Exe it was commandeered by older boys. Now he has just launched his 13-foot home-made canoe "Bluebird."

Using a 7s. 6d. plan, David

started building just after Christmas. Working in the evenings and at weekends, he averaged about six hours each week, buying the timber as he saved up. At first he worked in the cellar at home, then in the garage.

Assembly involved the driving of 288 screws, fitting the canvas and painting, but with this David was helped by his eleven-year-old friend Richard Burney and his little brother Andrew, who is only six.

Drury Lane down in Surrey

Many schools go in for amateur theatricals, but few can ever have tackled so ambitious a production as the one being presented by the Norbury Manor Secondary Modern Boys' School. This enterprising Surrey school is producing Louis MacNeice's Christopher Columbus, a play written for the BBC in 1942.

The play is in two acts: the first dealing with Columbus seeking the support of Ferdinand and Isabella, and the other with his first voyage and triumphant return to Spain.

The claim that this is "the greatest spectacle that Norbury has ever seen" is not without justification. The cast numbers 140, including the "back room boys," and accounts for three-quarters of the whole school. All the staff have assisted, and parents have made the costumes.

BUILDING THE SHIP

One of the biggest jobs was constructing the poop and half-deck of the Santa Maria, 16 feet long. Considerable research was involved, and in this the producer, Mr. D. S. Dobbing, found the Spanish Embassy very helpful.

Enthusiasm has been the keynote of this minor "Drury Lane" production down in Norbury; and this enthusiasm has been infectious, for all tickets were sold in six weeks before the opening night, May 2.

So Columbus sails in Norbury for seven nights, ending on May 14. All concerned in bringing this great story to life are to be heartily congratulated on an outstanding feat of teamwork.

Young newspaper editor

Continued from page 1

"Then," says the editor, "there was a great lull while I tried to think what to do in the way of printing. Suddenly I had an idea which I ought to have thought of before. I looked up all the duplicating firms in the telephone book and found one who said they would print 30 copies for 11s. 6d. Next week it was so much in demand that the order went up to 40, then 50, and the week after, 60."

This enabled the price to come down from 6d. to 4d., and then to 3d. as a result of another increase in circulation—to 80.

By the time he has paid for the printing, the prize box of chocolates, and the salary of his ten-year-old reporter (David Martin—1s. 6d. a week) Stephen has a profit of three to four shillings a week.

Occasionally the B.H. News features a special contribution from the editor's famous grandfather, C. B. Fry, the cricketer and writer. One was a limerick which ran:

*A handsome young curate in spats,
Was devotedly frightened of rats,
So he tied up his bags
With a couple of rags
And purchased a couple of cats!*

Grandfather is a doubly valued contributor. He asks no pay!

News from Everywhere

Rome had a shower of mud recently when rain mixed with sand and dust blew up from the North African desert.

OUTDOOR ART

The annual open-air exhibition of paintings is again being held in London on the Victoria Embankment. It closes on May 12.

The south side of Pont Pill, a creek off Fowey Harbour, Cornwall, has been presented to the National Trust. The north side already belongs to the Trust as a memorial to the author, Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch.

Model milkmaid



When not working as a model at fashion shows, Ruth Holgate helps with the milking on her father's farm at Guide, near Blackburn.

Princess Margrethe, heir-presumptive to the Danish throne, is to leave her Hampshire school in June to take the Danish Higher School Certificate.

A party of youth hostellers from Birmingham are to explore the Severn Valley in a canal boat this summer.

MOTOR MUSEUM

A Motor and Motor-Cycle Museum has been opened at Beaulieu Abbey, Hampshire.

Clothes insulated with metal are to be introduced into Britain. An American development, the new fabric makes clothes cool in summer by reflecting the sun's rays and warm in winter by increasing the radiant heat insulation.

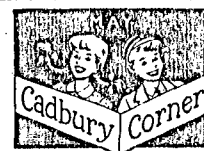
KENT TO ESSEX

Work is to be resumed on a road tunnel under the Thames between Dartford and Purfleet which was begun 17 years ago, but held up because of the war. The tunnel, costing £10,000,000, should be completed in 1960.

Two giant mobile cranes recently lifted a 100-foot span of pre-fabricated bridge into place across the railway tracks near New Eltham Station in south-east London. The whole operation took ten minutes.

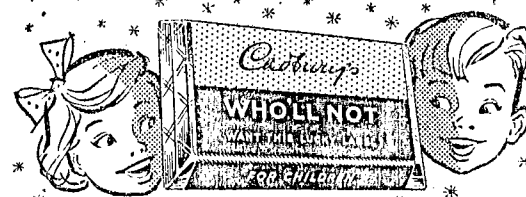
ALL GAY AT EYE

Council houses at Eye in Suffolk are to be painted red, white, and blue.



Keep a look out for this

LUCKY LABEL



15,000 PACKETS OF CADBURYS CHOCOLATE TO BE WON

Whenever you pass a sweetshop window this month, be sure to have a good look at what's inside it. If you spot this Lucky Label, pop in and say to the shopkeeper, 'I can point out the Lucky Cadbury Label.' When you have shown the shopkeeper where it is, he will give it to you. Write your name, age and address clearly on the back and post it to 'Lucky Label', CADBURYS, Dept. 23, BOURNVILLE, BIRMINGHAM. Each Lucky Label received by Cadburys wins the sender a packet of scrumptious Cadbury Chocolate. Remember you can only claim one Prize, so if you see a second Lucky Label, be a sport and leave it for some other sharp-eyed Cadbury Corner fan. This competition is open only to children under 16 living in Gt. Britain or N. Ireland.

WATCH OUT next month for Cadbury Corner—there are lots more big chocolate prizes to be won!

A Free game of Skiddaboard or Cadbury Snap for a set of 3 stamps. Are you saving the stamps which appear in every Cadbury Corner in the Children's Newspaper? If you have the set, stick it on a postcard, print your name, and address and choice of game on the card, send it to 'Free Games', Cadburys, Dept. 23, Bournville, Birmingham.



The Children's Newspaper, May 5, 1956

NEW ROAD TO THE TOP OF NORWAY

Motorists will soon be able to travel all the way to North Cape, the northernmost tip of Norway. The final stretch of the new road stretching from Honningsvåg, the most northerly town in the country, to the North Cape will be officially opened on July 1.

This final stretch is 22 miles long. North Cape is on an island, and a regular car-ferry service will link the North Cape road with the main Arctic Highway running south to Oslo, the Norwegian capital, a distance of 1300 miles. With the new road opened, many tourists are expected to visit North Cape, where the sun shines night and day from May to July.

THE CN HANDWRITING TEST

THE papers for this great competition, in which the Prizes total £500 in value, are now coming in fast and a very large entry is already assured. Although there is still good time before the closing date, schools taking part are asked to send their entries in as soon as they are completed—as in view of the extension of the Test, arrangements are being made to speed the task of examination so that the results can be announced as early as possible after the closure.

Requests for extra Entry Forms can still be met if prompt application is made to

The Competition Department,
CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER,
3 Pilgrim Street,
London, E.C.4 (Comp.)

—and, as before, these will be sent free and post-free. Forms are sent only in answer to school application.

Entrants who have not yet secured Tokens for their entry papers are reminded that supplies of Children's Newspaper are fully available again. If you cannot obtain a copy from your newsagent will you kindly place an order with him immediately.

All entries for the Test must be received by the revised closing date—

FRIDAY, JUNE 1

PACIFIC ISLAND MYSTERY

The world-famous Kon Tiki Expedition under Thor Heyerdahl was undertaken to throw light on his theories about the migration of primitive people across the Pacific. Now this celebrated Norwegian explorer has taken his latest party to Easter Island, and then onto Pitcairn Island, farther out in the Pacific.

Much valuable information was obtained on Easter Island, where the huge, mysterious stone statues which stand there have aroused discussion about their origins for many years.

Practical tests were made by the Thor Heyerdahl party to find out how these mammoth statues could have been made, transported, and erected by the primitive methods available to their makers. The explorers had a great deal of help from the Easter Island people, who produced hundreds of smaller statues and relief carvings which had been in their possession for generations.

WASP INVASION CHECKED

For the last ten years New Zealand homes have been plagued by wasps. They are believed to be descendants of wasp stowaways which came over in packing-cases during the Second World War.

But during the summer just ending there were fewer wasps than usual, and scientists think this was the result of a very mild winter in 1955. Queen wasps would have been deceived by the patches of warm weather which occurred, and would think that Spring had come. They would have come out of hibernation and been destroyed by the next cold snap.

WORLD'S SMALLEST PLANE

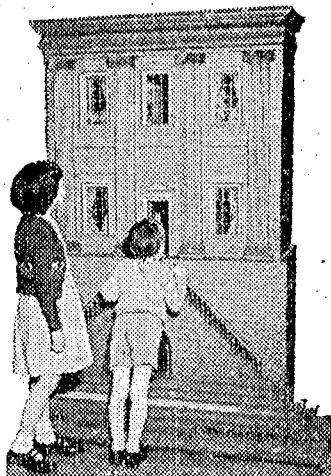
From California comes news of a midget aeroplane so small that it could be built in an ordinary living-room. Called the Sky Baby, it is a streamlined biplane with a span of only 86 inches and standing barely shoulder high.

An 85 h.p. Continental engine, modified to racing standards, gives it a top speed of 185 m.p.h. It weighs 668 lb.

DOLLS' HOUSE OF THEIR DREAMS

The beautiful little 18th century mansion which these youngsters are admiring is to be sold on May 4 in the famous London auction rooms of Sotheby's. Its miniature furniture was collected by the late Mrs. Ricardo, who received several pieces from Queen Mary.

Most of the things in "My Lady's Chamber" are of satin-wood, and on the writing-desk are tiny gold spectacles and gold scissors. There are also a tiny



violin and two little dogs, one on a cushion and the other on a chair. Many of the miniature objects are 18th or early 19th century work.

"The Young Ladies' Room" has painted Chinese wallpaper, and "Sir George's Room" has panelled walls. Among the objects in the other rooms are an ivory harmonium, an ivory spinning wheel, an alarm clock, and ornaments in silver, jade, and porcelain. In the kitchen elfin mice are being chased by china dogs.

LETTERS TO DAD 2000 YEARS AGO

Sir Harold Bell, noted Egyptologist, in a presidential address to the Classical Association of the University College of North Wales, quoted private letters written in Greek on papyrus two thousand years ago.

"The letters give us a fascinating picture of social and family life among the Greek-speaking population of Egypt," he declared.

A spoiled boy wrote to his father: "If you won't take me with you to Alexandria, I won't take your hand or ever greet you again. If you won't take me that's what will happen."

A letter from a different sort of boy begged his father to come quickly and interview his schoolmaster, so that the boy could begin his lessons. Thinking of the pets he had left behind, the writer added the postscript: "Remember my pigeons."

THE HENS WENT FOR A JOYRIDE

When two hens were missing from a fowl house in Co. Donegal, it was thought that a fox was responsible. But later in the day they were found two miles away—on a donkey's back.

The fowl house door had been left open, and the donkey had taken shelter there during the night. The hens had used the donkey's back as a perch, and had remained there when the animal went off in the morning.

GIFT FOR THE GOVERNOR

When the Governor General of Canada visited Frobisher Bay in Canada's far north, the Eskimos of Bayne Bay presented him with a dark blue Eskimo vest. It has ivory buttons made of walrus tusks and is lined with Arctic eiderdown.

BACKWARDS AND FORWARDS

Captain Samuel C. Hudson has just retired after taking his ships thousands of miles—without ever being more than a few hundred yards from land.

The captain has been in charge of one of the London County Council's Woolwich Ferry boats and he says that he long ago lost count of the number of times he has sailed across the Thames, for he has been doing it for 42 years!

During the First World War, however, Captain Hudson's voyages did take him farther afield. He served in the Royal Naval Division—but in 1919 back he came to the old pier-to-pier trips.

The Thames is about 500 yards wide at Woolwich.

MOUNTAIN RESCUE BADGE

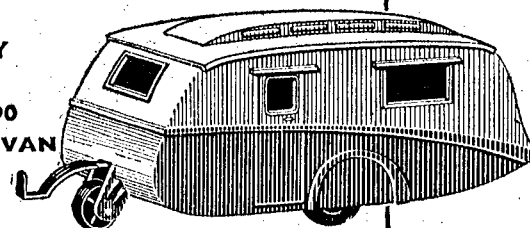
The Queen has approved a badge for Royal Air Force Mountain Rescue teams. Worn on the arm, the badge with its two crossed ice-axes on a coil of rope is one of the most exclusive in the Air Force.

At present there are seven Mountain Rescue teams in the United Kingdom and another in Cyprus. Just over 200 men are qualified to wear the badge.

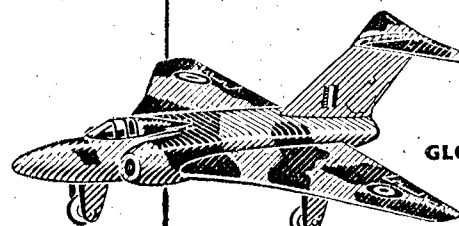
Climbers drawn from all branches of the Service give much of their spare time to training, bringing themselves to a high standard of efficiency in searching for and rescuing crashed aircraft or civilians lost in the hills.

New this month!

DINKY TOYS
No. 190
CARAVAN



Suitable for attachment to any Dinky Toys passenger car, this adaptable miniature represents a modern trailer caravan with lantern-type roof, jockey wheel and balanced tow bar. Length, excluding tow bar, 4". Price 3/11d (inc. tax)



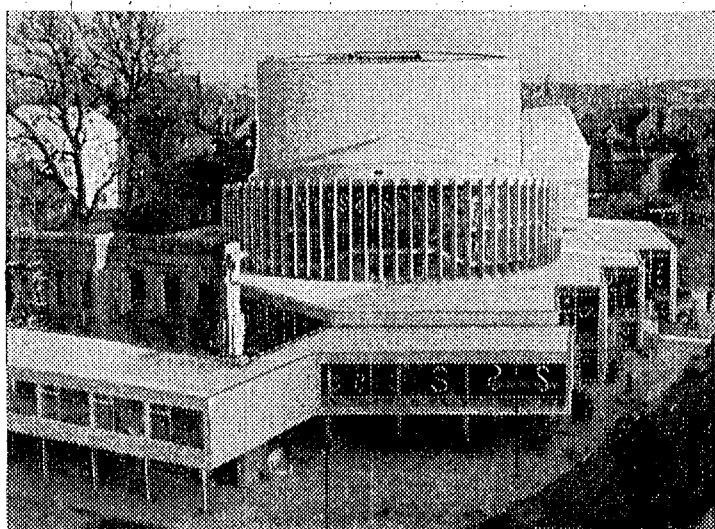
DINKY TOYS
No. 735
GLOSTER JAVELIN
DELTA WING
FIGHTER

This fine model of the world's first delta wing twin-jet day and night fighter, in R.A.F. camouflage finish, has just been added to the Dinky Toys air fleet. Length 3 1/2" Wing span 3 1/2" Price 2/11d (inc. tax)

Keep on collecting

DINKY TOYS

MADE IN ENGLAND BY MECCANO LTD., BINNS ROAD, LIVERPOOL 13



Strange new theatre

This new theatre at Munster, Germany, has been christened the "Culture Gasometer." One wall of the old town theatre, now demolished, has been used in the new building.

IT HAPPENED THIS WEEK

Washington becomes President

APRIL 30, 1789. NEW YORK—Standing on the balcony of the Federal Hall here today General George Washington took the oath as the first President of the newly formed United States of America.

"My station is new; I walk on untrodden ground," he declared to the great crowd of his fellow-citizens who had gathered to see the inauguration of the leader of their country.

The new President is certainly faced with enormous problems in his attempt to create a nation. He has a Secretary of War, but the whole army is only 80 men. He has a Treasury—with nothing in it.

Fourteen years ago—in June

1775—Washington became Commander-in-Chief of the American colonial armies fighting against British rule. He led those armies to final and decisive victory at Yorktown in 1781.

Recognised as the man who had done more than any other to win freedom for the colonists, he was so revered by them that in the year after his victory some admirers offered him a crown and begged him to found a new kingdom.

He presided over the Philadelphia Convention which framed the constitution of the United States, and on April 6 last was elected first President of the United States.

End of the plotters

MAY 1, 1820. LONDON—In front of the old Debtor's Door at Newgate Prison today five of the "Cato Street Conspirators" were hanged.

The leader, fifty-year-old Arthur Thistlewood, had been a revolutionary for more than half his life. It is stated that when he came back from France in 1794 he was "firmly convinced that the first duty of a patriot was to massacre the Government."

About the end of 1814 he came under observation as a dangerous character. In 1816 he organised a public meeting which was called to inaugurate a revolution, and from that time on made other plots.

For a year—after he had abused the Home Secretary and challenged him to a duel—he was im-

prisoned. Then he formed a secret "directory of 13," which eventually decided to assassinate the whole Cabinet at one blow.

The attempt was fixed for the night of February 23 last, when the Cabinet were expected to dine at the house of Lord Harrowby, in Grosvenor Square.

Two days before the dinner a loft was rented over a shop in Cato Street, just off the Edgware Road, and there—at 8.30 p.m. on the evening of the Cabinet dinner—Thistlewood and more than a score of conspirators were surprised by Bow Street officers.

A fortnight ago, after a three-day trial, Thistlewood, Ings, and three others were sentenced to death. Five others were sentenced to be transported for life.

London's new dome

MAY 2, 1857. LONDON—The new reading room of the British Museum was inaugurated today with a reception given by the man most responsible for this magnificent library, Sir Anthony Panizzi.

Sir Anthony designed the great room, devised new forms of book storage, and set in hand the preparation of the immense catalogue.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Speaker of the House of Com-

mons, and the Bishop of London were among the guests at today's inaugural banquet.

The room is one of the most impressive halls in London, roofed with a dome bigger than that of St. Peter's in Rome.

Panizzi, a refugee from his native Italy, was appointed assistant librarian at the Museum in 1831, and since then he has devoted all his energies to it.

RADIO AND TV

JOURNEY TO THE HAGUE

By train and boat, or car and plane

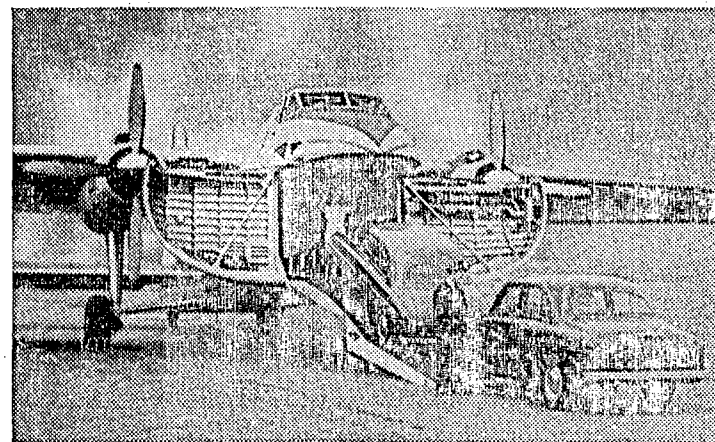
FOUR characters well known to Children's Hour listeners have a rendezvous at Liverpool Street Station, London, on Friday week (May 11) for a two-pronged trip to Holland. The idea is to compare two ways of reaching The Hague—by train and boat, or by car and plane. It is not a race, though the two parties will leave and arrive at about the same time.

At 9.30 John Lane and Wynford Vaughan Thomas will say goodbye to the train party, Alun Williams and L. F. Lewis, and will then set off themselves by car to Southend. From there, they and their car will be flown by charter plane on the

new Channel Air Bridge to Dunkirk. Crossing the French frontier by car they will lunch at Ostend, continue through Bruges and Ghent, and arrive at The Hague at about 7 p.m.

Meanwhile, the other party, going by the Hook Continental Express to Harwich and crossing the North Sea by the Hook of Holland route, expect to steam into The Hague at 7.25 p.m., when the quartet will meet again.

Both parties will carry midget tape-recorders and I hear we can expect the results in Children's Hour Saturday Excursion early in June.



This is the way the air travellers will go

In search of the Giant Bustard

Who wouldn't jump at the chance of five weeks in Spain, hunting for the Giant Bustard? That is the latest assignment for BBC Bird Man Eric Sims, whom I met the other day just before his departure.

Eric Sims, who is accompanied by his engineer colleague Bob Wade, tells me their instructions are to capture all the Spanish bird songs within range. Some are for immediate use in feature programmes and Children's Hour. Others will be stored in the BBC record library for use later on.

As usual, they are using a parabolic aerial reflector, rather like a giant saucer, for picking up bird sounds at a distance.

The Giant Bustard, their chief quarry, is almost extinct in Europe, but is believed to haunt the grounds of an ancient monastery in Central Spain, and Eric Sims and Bob Wade are making this their headquarters.

Arresting programme

CHARLES MAX MULLER, head of BBC sound outside broadcasts, has passed on an amusing story from Ted Schreurs, a Dutch radio commentator.

Not long ago Mr. Schreurs tried copying Brian Johnston and Kenneth Horne, who gave away 10s. notes at Victoria Station, London, just before Christmas.

He was arrested, but millions of listeners missed nothing of the questioning in Amsterdam police station, for the commentator was carrying a concealed microphone.

More young artists

CARROLL LEVIS, whose famous Discoveries have given many young artists their first chance on radio and TV, tells me he is bringing back his programme to the Light on June 2 after an interval of more than two years. Now he has a waiting list of 300 acts and is hoping to find opportunities for them on BBC Television too.

The only programme like it is Opportunity Knocks, which Hughie Green is starting in Associated-Rediffusion on June 6.

Two new Huggetts

EVERYBODY likes the Huggetts.

When Meet the Huggetts returns to the Light Programme this Thursday for 20 new weekly adventures, we shall be hearing two young voices for the first time. They belong to Christopher Saunders (15) and Marian Collins (17), taking over the parts of Bobby and Jane.



Marian Collins and Chris Saunders

Hoping for something to happen

THERE could be no better title than Look, for Peter Scott's programme in BBC Children's TV next Tuesday. This time the cameras simply will look, with Peter Scott hoping that things will happen! For the first time for many months there will be no specially prepared film. The outside cameras will be set up beside a pond opposite the Scott home in the midst of the Severn Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge, Somerset.

As you know, Slimbridge abounds in every type of wildfowl collected from the ends of the earth, and at this time of year we can expect quite a hubbub among the birds, many teaching their young to swim or fly. But no one can be sure; there can be no rehearsal for this kind of bird show.

The programme will be repeated for the grown-ups next day—but doubtless with different birds.

The Aussies at Worcester

It is, of course, three years since an Australian Test cricket team was in this country. Many younger readers have no idea of the excitements that lie in store on radio and TV during the forthcoming tour.

The Australians' first County match is always with Worcester. The three-day match, starting this Wednesday, will be both televised and broadcast. BBC cameras will be in operation five times each day, beginning at noon and finishing with the closing overs in the evening. E. W. Swanton and Brian Johnston are the TV commentators.

In the Light Programme there will be four visits on the first day, three on the second, and two on the third, with Rex Alston and Michael Charlton as commentators.

Both Christopher and Marian, have already pre-recorded about six instalments. Christopher comes from Hounslow, London, and is still at grammar school, but has been taking acting and dancing lessons at weekends for six years. Marian has been at a North London drama school for seven

years. Although she has not yet appeared on the stage, she has taken part in several films, including the Ealing comedy Touch and Go, The Love Lottery, and I Have a Teenage Daughter. She also models for teenage fashions.

Their radio parents are, of course, Jack Warner and Kathleen Harrison as Joe and Ethel Huggett, with Kenneth Connor as Albert Stafford and Charles Leno as Fred Stebbings.

ERNEST THOMSON

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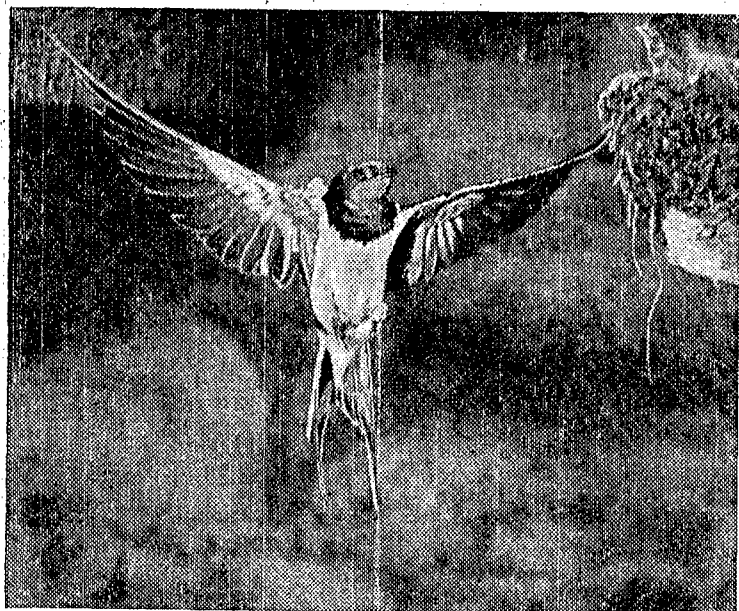
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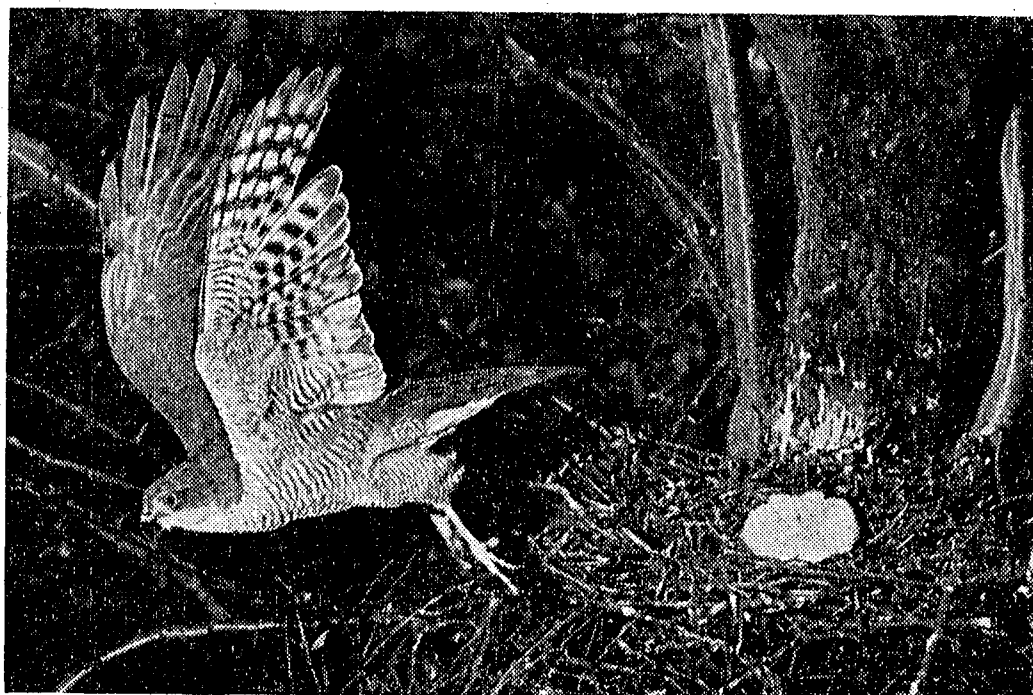
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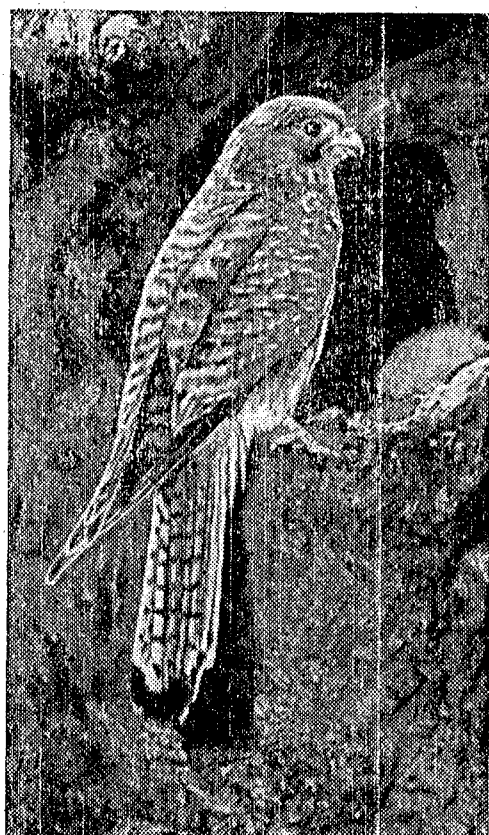
AT HOME WITH THE NESTING BIRDS



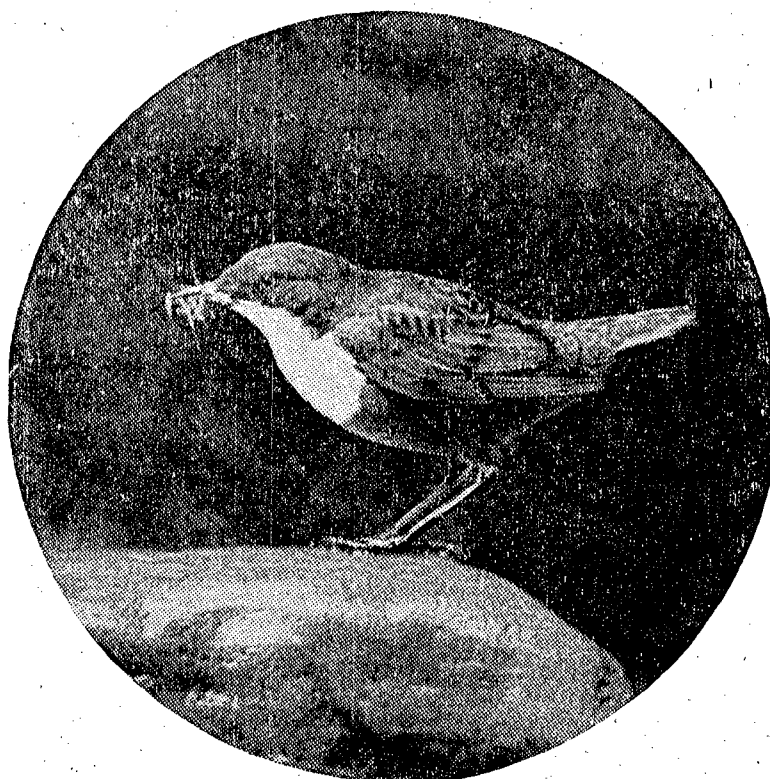
The swallow returns to its nest under the eaves of a farm building



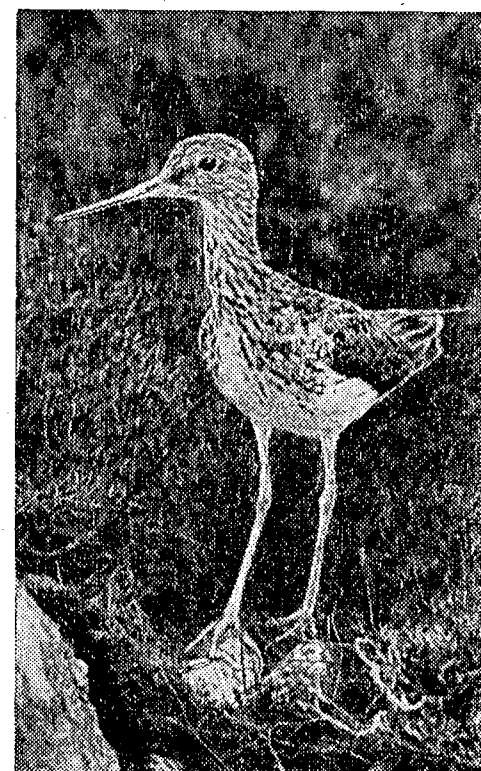
In search of more food, the sparrowhawk leaves its huddle of new-fledged chicks high in a tree



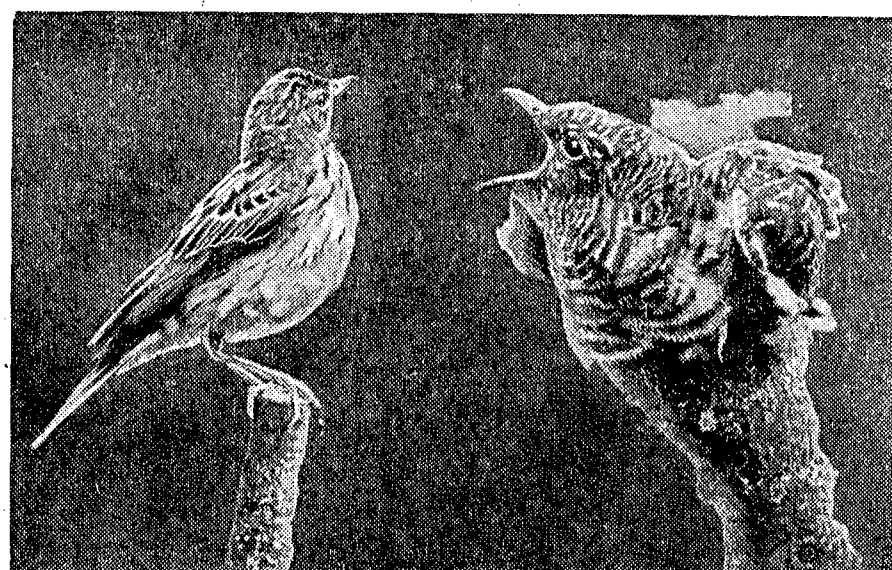
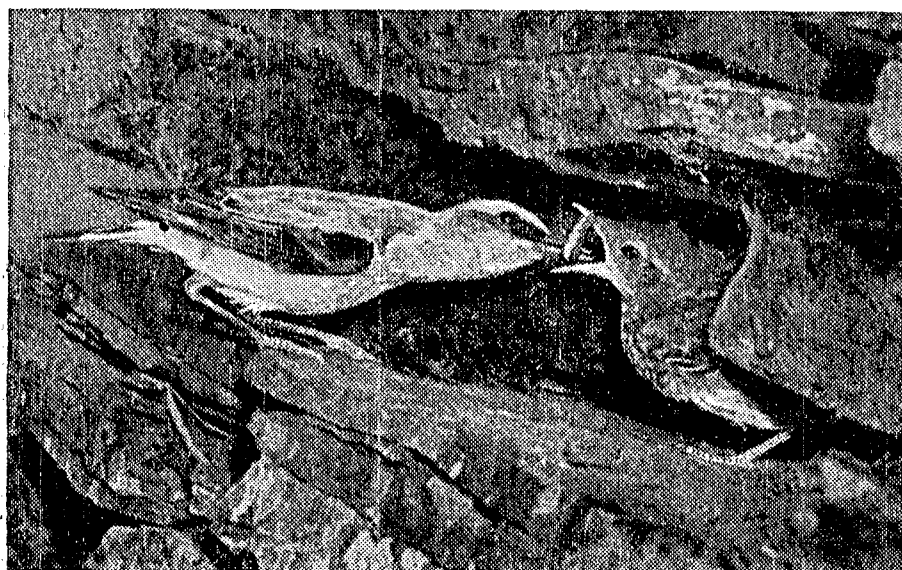
The kestrel guards its nest in a hollow trunk



The dipper alights near its home beside some swift hill stream



The greenshank's nest is hidden in the bracken



Actions which take only a second or so are often too fast or too far away for even the most patient watcher of bird-nests to take in. But they yield their secrets to the high-speed camera. The wheatear, for instance (bottom left) wastes no time in the act of giving a juicy grub to her young; while the little tree-pipit (right) can scarcely work hard enough to satisfy a ravenous young cuckoo

Children's Newspaper

John Carpenter House
Whitefriars . London . EC4
MAY 5 1956

THE LIVING THEATRE

IN a letter to The Daily Telegraph a lady has lamented the fact that only at Christmas time are there special theatre shows for children. She suggests that live drama can survive only if the younger generation acquires the habit of going to the theatre.

The truth, of course, is that neither theatre managers, nor children, decide that Christmas is the special time for pantomimes or Peter Pan; the demand comes from parents and relatives who rightly think that a Christmas "treat" is as important as a Christmas tree. In other words there are big profitable children's shows at Christmas because of a public demand, a demand which is not felt at other times of the year.

The running of big theatres is far too costly to allow for doubtful experiments.

That young people are naturally attracted to acting is proved by their enthusiasm for school plays and by the number who join amateur dramatic clubs when school days are over. But this enthusiasm by itself will not increase audiences at the big theatres, which have to charge higher prices for their seats than most young people can afford.

Perhaps the best way to encourage youthful interest in the live theatre is to support the local repertory companies.

The Editor's Table

THE BEST HOBBY

"ONE often has a better idea of what people are like from seeing them at their hobbies than at their daily work." That was said the other day by Mrs. R. S. Garfield Todd, wife of Southern Rhodesia's Prime Minister, when opening a Red Cross fête.

She went on to point out that some people have hobbies which consist entirely of service to others; and that among the most worthy of these are the Red Cross organisations.

The attraction of all hobbies is that we choose them for ourselves; there is no compulsion in them. But fortunate are those whose choice falls on working for the Red Cross or the St. John Ambulance Brigade. Their hobby is giving help to others.

Think on These Things

AT the beginning of His ministry Jesus chose twelve men to be Apostles. They were quite ordinary people, but different in temperament and ability and outlook.

There were twelve tribes of Israel and Jesus was going to bring into being a new Israel, a new Church, and the twelve Apostles were to be the nucleus of it.

Jesus called His twelve Apostles to be with Him, and to go out to tell others about Him. Jesus sent them out to preach the Gospel. So Jesus calls us into the fellowship of His Church. We are to live close to Him, and to bring others to know and serve Him.

O. R. C.

NOW IT'S SPRING

It is the season now to go About the country high and low,
Among the lilacs hand in hand,
And two by two in fairyland.

Robert Louis Stevenson

Building that went by post

A MAN who once sent a whole building by parcel post died recently in the United States. He was Mr. W. Coltharp, and the building he posted is a bank which still stands at Vernal, 175 miles from its original site in Salt Lake City.

Mr. Coltharp worked out that he would save six shillings on every 100 lb. of the building if it went brick by brick through the post instead of by rail at freight charges.

So the Post Office did the moving, but later altered its regulations to stop the posting of any more buildings.

His Masterpiece



This amazingly lifelike portrait of Sir Winston Churchill was painted entirely from a study of photographs and drawings. The artist, a 68-year-old student at the St. Martin's School of Art, is Mr. Alan Taylor Shiers.

JUST AN IDEA

As Pliny wrote: As land is improved by sowing it with various seeds, so is the mind by exercising it with various studies.

THEY SAY...

ENGLISH chivalry is something of which the English nation should be proud, and which we should struggle to preserve.

Chairman of the Birmingham branch of the Royal Society of St. George

I WAS quite proud of getting up in ordinary shoes until one of the crew passed me on the way down in gumboots.

Sir Edmund Hillary, after climbing a small peak on the way to Antarctica

I CAN see no limit to the speed of human flight, providing the pilot is adequately protected.

Lt.-Col. C. E. Yeager, pilot of U.S. rocket-powered aircraft which flew at 1650 m.p.h.

QUIZ CORNER

1. What is plankton?
2. Which British monarch died in the Isle of Wight?
3. In which games do you meet these terms: pitcher, love, duck, scrum?
4. Can you name the Patron Saints of England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales?
5. Which of the Channel Islands is nearest to England?

Answers on page 12

Out and About

ALMOST anywhere near inland waters and untrimmed ditches the song of sedge-warblers is heard now. They seem to interrupt little bursts of singing with high-pitched gossip, as if very pleased at finding a nesting site where very soon their eggs will be laid.

The sedge-warblers arrived during the past fortnight, being only summer residents with us.

Our poets have hardly done them justice, except Edward Thomas who noticed them "clinging so light to willow twigs," and their changing song, "quick, shrill, or grating"—not much of a musical performance; but, he wrote:

This was the best of May—the small brown birds
Wisely reiterating endlessly
What no man learnt yet, in or out of school. C. D. D.

Thirty Years Ago

From the Children's Newspaper, May 1, 1926

THE eagerly awaited cricket season is at hand, and the Australians are in our midst.

Our doughty opponents from Australia hold, and have long held, the championship. Can we in three days twice dismiss our redoubtable rivals and make sufficient runs to give us victory? We must hasten if we are to win the earlier matches; the last Test may claim five days for its decision.

The Children's Newspaper, May 5, 1956

Next Week's Birthdays

May 6

Sigmund Freud (1856-1939). Psychologist who revolutionised his science by the introduction of psycho-analysis. He was a pioneer in research into the subconscious workings of the human mind.

May 7

Robert Browning (1812-1889). Poet and playwright. He had already several plays including



A Blot in the 'Scutcheon' performed in London when he met Elizabeth Barrett, famous as a scholar and a poet. He transformed her life by persuading her in 1846 to leave her invalid couch to marry him and go to Italy where they lived, mostly, till her death in 1861. Perhaps his best poem is The Ring and the Book.

May 8

Henri Dunant (1828-1910). Swiss philanthropist. In 1859 when the great battle of Solferino was fought, he was shocked to find that nothing was being done to ease the sufferings of the wounded. He did all he could to rouse the conscience of the world to this terrible problem and his work led to the foundation of the Red Cross.

May 9

J. M. Barrie (1860-1937). Scottish writer and dramatist. Started with sketches of humble life in his native Kirriemuir, especially with A Window in Thrums. His first great theatre success was The Little Minister (1894). But Peter Pan is, perhaps, his most enduring work.

May 10

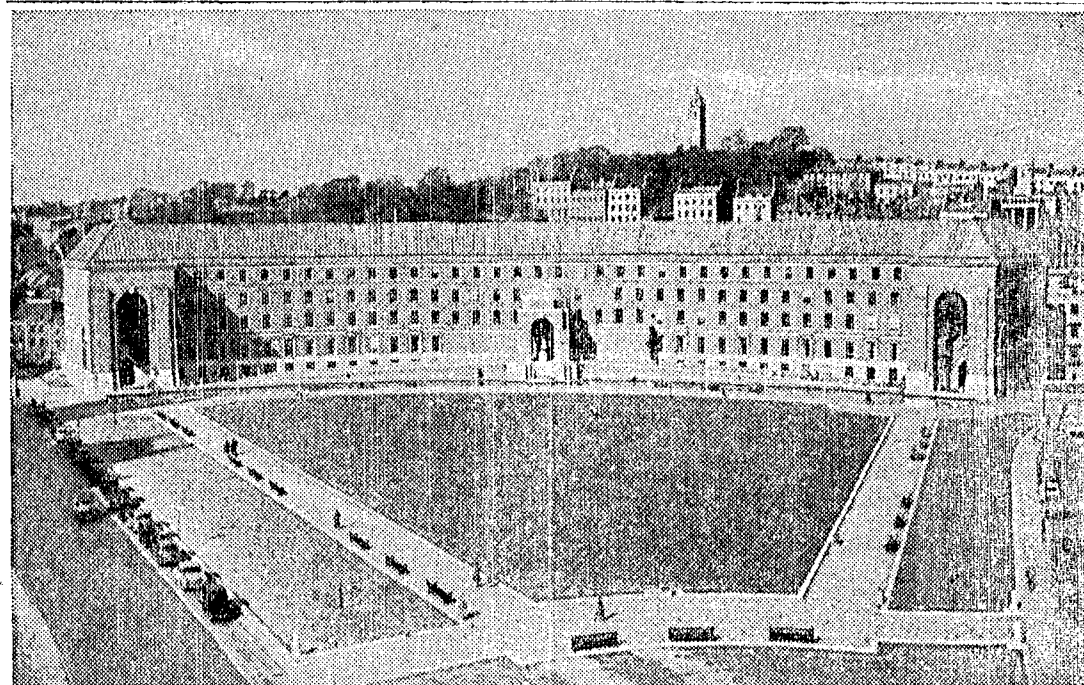
Lady Allen of Hurtwood (1897). Landscape architect and a great worker for the provision of nursery schools for young children and for child welfare generally—both in Great Britain and for the United Nations.

May 11

Paul Nash (1889-1946). Painter and designer. After being wounded in 1917 he was appointed an official war artist, a position he again held in the Second World War.

May 12

Florence Nightingale (1820-1910). Despite every discouragement took out her own staff of nurses to the Crimean War and her work revolutionised nursing. She became a popular heroine as "The Lady of the Lamp" but was herself a ruthless reformer with great administrative gifts.



OUR HOMELAND

Bristol Corporation's impressive new headquarters, opened recently by the Queen

NEW FILMS

KINGDOM OF LIONS And Realm of Space

WALT DISNEY'S new "True Life Adventure" film, *The African Lion*, not only tells us a good deal about the lion's family life, but it shows a great many other animals as well. They are all, as the commentator says, "in the kingdom" of the king of beasts, and many people who see the film will find that they remem-



The family takes it easy

ber more about the minor characters than about the hero.

Nevertheless, we do see plenty of interesting and impressive pictures of the lion, the lioness, and their cubs as they live together, and go hunting, and fight. It is fascinating to notice how closely their movements resemble those of other cats, great and small.

One of the most interesting parts of the film shows something of the life of the biggest animals in the lion's "kingdom"—the elephants. Nearly everybody feels a sort of affection for elephants, and it is delightful to watch them in this film sequence. They seem to be playing about in the water-holes just for the fun of it, climbing and slithering down the muddy banks, and squirting water at each other.

The other big animals are not so likeable. The hippopotamus perhaps may look something of a comedian, as he wallows in the water-hole with small fish swimming about his head, but the rhinoceros looks remarkably like some menacing beast constructed for a film about prehistoric times.

There is no room to mention half of the creatures of every size and kind shown here, from the locust to the crocodile and innumerable varieties of birds. The film was in the making for three years, and is the result of extraordinary patience on the part of Walt Disney's cameramen. They must have had to wait weeks and months in hiding to get some of these pictures without scaring the animals away.

ANOTHER new film of a very different kind is called *On the Threshold of Space*. That might easily be the title of some piece of science-fiction, but this film is really science fact—or nearly. The characters in the story are imaginary, but the details of the work we see them doing are true.

The film shows the way doctors in the United States are investigating the problems to be faced by men who fly at enormous speeds and at great heights.

The principal character is a young Air Force doctor who himself takes part in many of the experiments, so as to find out from



Adjusting the canopy of the rocket sled.

the doctor's point of view all the things that may happen to a man under such fearful strain. He jumps from fast-flying aircraft, and from great heights; and at last he goes up in a sphere taken by a balloon to a height so great—over

Continued in next column

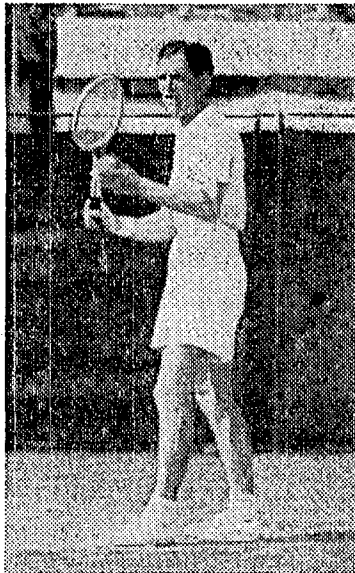
LEARNING TENNIS WITH TONY MOTTRAM (1)

Tony Mottram needs little introduction. For many years our leading lawn tennis player, he has competed all over the world against the champions of every country.

He is now engaged in coaching and passing on the results of his experience to young players in many

lands, and in this new series of lessons he will try to help C N readers to improve their game.

Each lesson will describe the basic principles of a tennis stroke. Study the pictures, follow his advice, and practise hard. In no time at all your game will improve. This week he describes the service.



The READINESS position. Look at the way I am gripping the racket. It should be held as if it were a chopper, but with the first finger spaced slightly away from the others. The wrist is kept flexible.

Notice the very important *side-ways* stance, with the left shoulder pointing towards the opponent. The feet should be spaced about 18 inches apart. Place the left foot about four inches behind the baseline to avoid any chance of foot-faulting by stepping onto it. My body is well relaxed and the weight is spread evenly on both feet. The left hand lightly supports the "throat" of the racket at the start. Notice how carefully I am concentrating on the stroke and where to serve the ball.



The ACTION. The body is still sideways to the net. The racket is about to form the loop behind the head from where it will travel up-and-over in meeting the ball. Try to make your swing smooth and rhythmic with no jerks in it.

The swing is very similar to that action required in throwing a ball. The left hand and arm have already "placed" the ball up into the hitting position. Think of the throw-up in this way; of "placing" the ball with hand and arm into position. The ball should go no higher than is required for hitting it at full stretch. Notice that my knees and back are bent. My body-weight is now moving forward from the back to the front foot; this gives the power.



The FINISH. From the position in the second picture my racket has travelled up-and-over to meet the ball just to the right of the point above my head. My racket has then travelled downwards, and the momentum of the swing has carried it on past my left leg and so to the final completed position shown in this third picture. As this position is reached the forward moving momentum of my body is being checked by the right foot which has moved into the court.

Notice how the full weight of my body has been put into the action. To start with, do not try for too much speed. Use the first ball (if it is a fault) as a sighter for the second. Learn to serve to both sides of your opponent's court.

100,000 feet—that he is able to see the curvature of the earth. Another breath-taking experiment is with the rocket-sled that travels on the ground faster than the speed of sound—a speed which is equivalent to something like 2000 m.p.h. at high altitudes.

This is not so much a story about human beings as an account of what they can—and will—do. Even those who are not enthusiastic about the prospect of being able to travel into outer space will find it full of interest.

THUNDERSTORM MAPS

The World Meteorological Organisation has now completed its three-year project of charting the course of thunderstorms over the world. The result will be a series of 17 world maps showing the average number of thunderstorm days for each month; for the quarterly periods; and for the whole year.

They will greatly help telegraph and radio undertakings whose transmissions are so much affected by thunderstorm disturbance.

MITTENS FOR HILARY

When Sir Edmund Hillary leads the New Zealand expedition to the Antarctic next year he will be able to wear mittens and socks made from the champion fleece exhibited at the New Zealand Easter Show.

A lady living near Auckland has offered to spin the fleece into wool and knit both mittens and socks for Sir Edmund. Of course, the farmer who exhibited the fleece was proud to give this sample of his wool for such an excellent purpose.

STAMP ALBUM

NATIONAL EMBLEMS



MOST COUNTRIES ISSUE STAMPS DISPLAYING THEIR NATIONAL ARMS OR EMBLEMS. IF YOU MOUNT THESE IN YOUR ALBUM—EACH IN ITS APPROPRIATE PLACE UNDER THE COUNTRY'S TITLE—YOU ADD GREATLY TO THE INTEREST OF YOUR COLLECTION.



SLEEPING GIANT

MOUNT PELÉE (4500 FEET) IS THE TALLEST OF THE VOLCANIC PEAKS IN MARTINIQUE, FRENCH ISLAND IN THE WEST INDIES. HAVING LAIN DORMANT FOR 50 YEARS, IT ERUPTED IN 1902 AND COMPLETELY DESTROYED THE CITY OF ST. PIERRE. MORE THAN 30,000 PEOPLE LOST THEIR LIVES.



NATIONAL SPORTS



ON THE LEFT IS PICTURED A GLIMA MATCH, A TYPE OF WRESTLING PECULIAR TO ICELAND. CONTESTANTS WEAR GIRDLES ROUND WAIST AND THIGHS, AND 'THROWS' ARE EFFECTED BY GRIPS ON THESE GIRDLES. SWIMMING IS ALSO A NATIONAL SPORT; BY LAW, ALL CHILDREN HAVE TO LEARN TO SWIM.

CHANGE FOR A DOLLAR

The winners at a carnival competition in Trinidad recently were three children who represented three new coins issued in 1955: the 50 cent, 25 cent, and 10 cent pieces.

These coins will certainly make shopping much easier when all the old coins have been recalled. But at the moment the children are having to think very hard when they get out their money, because they may have as many as 15 different sorts of coins.

The paper money is in dollars, but until the last stage in the change-over to decimal currency the coins have been sterling. The halfpenny is called a "cent," and 100 cents, or 4s. 2d. make up the dollar.

At the moment there are nine sterling coins, including both threepenny-bits, and six new coins. Thus a dollar might be made up from a 25-cent piece, a ten-cent piece, a five-cent piece, a two-cent piece, a shilling, two six-pences, a threepenny-bit, a penny, a halfpenny, and two farthings.

When all the old coins have gone, and all the divisions of the dollar are in multiples of five, it will be very much easier to give anyone change.

THE WINDMILL MAN

Graham Wilson is a lover of windmills. As a boy he used to cycle out from his home at Hull to photograph windmills in many parts of the country, and in his garden he made a wonderful miniature mill capable of grinding corn.

Now, aged 20, he has taken charge of a windmill at North Leverton, near Retford, Notts, in answer to an advertisement from a syndicate of farmers.

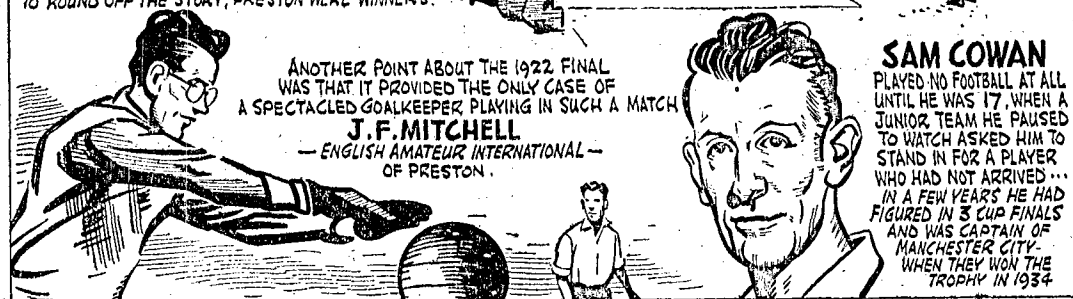
Graham holds the City and Guilds certificate in provender-milling and hopes eventually to own a mill of his own. He recently broadcast about his new job, and the farmers have guaranteed him enough work to keep the old sails turning continuously.

Sporting Flashbacks

WHEN BILLY SMITH, OF HUDDERSFIELD TOWN SCORED WITH A SPOT KICK AGAINST PRESTON NORTH END IN 1922. IT WAS THE 47TH F.A. CUP FINAL — BUT THE VERY FIRST TO BE DECIDED BY A PENALTY GOAL.

NOT UNTIL THE 63RD FINAL DID A PENALTY SETTLE THE ISSUE AGAIN AND THE ODD THING WAS THAT THE SAME TWO CLUBS WERE ENGAGED.

TO ROUND OFF THE STORY, PRESTON WERE WINNERS.



ANOTHER POINT ABOUT THE 1922 FINAL WAS THAT IT PROVIDED THE ONLY CASE OF A SPECTACLED GOALKEEPER PLAYING IN SUCH A MATCH.
J.F. MITCHELL
— ENGLISH AMATEUR INTERNATIONAL — OF PRESTON.

SAM COWAN
PLAYED NO FOOTBALL AT ALL UNTIL HE WAS 17, WHEN A JUNIOR TEAM HE PAUSED TO WATCH ASKED HIM TO STAND IN FOR A PLAYER WHO HAD NOT ARRIVED... IN A FEW YEARS HE HAD FIGURED IN 3 CUP FINALS AND WAS CAPTAIN OF MANCHESTER CITY WHEN THEY WON THE TROPHY IN 1934.

JUMBOS AT THE BOTTOM OF HER GARDEN

The other day our postbag contained letters from readers in Australia and Africa, and both gave fascinating sidelights on life in far-away lands.

ONE letter was a combined effort, in various handwritings, from a State School on the Redcliffe Peninsula, in Queensland. One of the contributors, a boy, told us of the origin of the curious name of the school. It is called Humpybong.

He says that the first settlers arrived there from England in 1824 and "made a settlement, building huts just on the spot where our school now stands. They did not stay long here, for they were surrounded by very unfriendly natives, or Aborigines, who harassed them. So the site was abandoned and a settlement made 20 miles up the river at the place which is now Brisbane. The natives came to the deserted huts or 'humphies' and said they were 'bong,' or dead, and so the name of the place became Humpy-bong."

PRISCILLA COWEN, who is twelve, wrote to us from Kenya about the house where she lived till recently, when her father, a police-

man, was moved to another place. The family lived 235 miles from the nearest shops and 400 from the nearest doctor, who called every six months—just in case.

Priscilla says, "As we had very few playmates, the animals all around us were a great source of amusement. Our biggest friend was Jimmy, the elephant. He was a great bother to Mummy, because he ate all the straw off the guest-house roof and trampled on the vegetable garden, although we three children loved him very much.

On my sixth birthday we all

went in the police lorry to a place called Paradise Lake, where we hoped to see some elephants, and we were not disappointed. When it was getting cooler we sat down by the lorry and, looking down at the lake below us, we suddenly saw a huge father elephant emerging from the surrounding forest. He came slowly towards the water, flapping his ears and looking all around him. Suddenly he stopped, and raising his trunk in the air he trumpeted loudly. Gazing down the steep bank we saw the mother and baby elephant come out of the forest and amble over to the lake.

First of all they all had a drink, making the baby elephant go into the water till he was standing up to his tummy in it. Then his parents filled their trunks with water and squirted him all over with it, making him squeal with delight."

The sort of wild creatures Priscilla enjoyed watching in the open are only seen in zoos by most children. But apart from the hyenas who would eat the chickens, and the honeybees which were always fighting the cat, she seems to have got on with her animal friends remarkably well.

NEW YHA HOLIDAYS

This year, for the first time, the Youth Hostels Association is organising pony-trekking, sailing, cycling, and walking holiday weeks.

The pony-trekking will be in the hills around Crickhowell in Wales, and the sailing weeks at Maldon in Essex. One of the cycling tours will be over Dartmoor, and walking tours are being arranged on Snowdonia mountain tracks and along the Pennine Way from Edale. Cost will range from £4 10s. to £8 8s.

140 MILES HIGH

Hurting upwards at five times the speed of sound, a new American research plane is expected to reach the remarkable height of 750,000 feet.

The machine, under construction by Douglas Aircraft, will take its pilot into air so thin that the control surfaces on its wings will be virtually useless. To keep his plane in the correct flying attitude the pilot will have to fire small rockets set at an angle in the sides of the fuselage.

Though approaching the boundaries of space, the pilot of this "Super-Skyrocket" is unlikely to be airborne for much longer than 20 minutes. During this time he will cover a horizontal distance of 500 miles.

One of the greatest problems confronting the designers was how to get the plane safely back to earth. As it dives downwards the friction caused by a sudden thickening of the air at 50,000 feet will heat its nose and leading edges of its tiny wings into a glowing, poker-red. Part of its surfaces will probably melt away—but that has been allowed for.

As he climbs out of his pressurised and refrigerated cockpit the pilot will have the knowledge that he and his rocket-plane have brought conquest of space one step nearer reality.

RETURN TRIP

Thirty years ago Mr. K. H. Andersen was a clerk in a shipping office in Grangemouth, Stirlingshire. Today he is vice-president of a big Canadian corporation.

When his company decided to modernise its fleet of grain-carriers on the Canadian Great Lakes, he remembered Grangemouth and its famous shipbuilding tradition, and ordered two ships from the Grangemouth Dockyard Company.

Mr. Andersen returned to Grangemouth for the first time in 30 years to watch his wife name the first of the new vessels.

THE LION OF ST MARK—new picture-version of G. A. Henty's thrilling story (12)



The Pluto's men escaped from the hold in which they had been imprisoned, and joined their officers. Meanwhile, Francis had decided that the best way of reaching the deck was through the captain's cabin above them. They had cautiously loosened planks in its floor, and on a dark night they made a hole through which Francis climbed. As anticipated, he found the cabin empty, and the others followed him.



Armed with the weapons they had taken from the store, the Venetians quietly assembled in the waist of the ship which, on this stormy night, was deserted. The sailors who were not on watch were sheltering in the fore-castle. The Genoese officers on the poop thought the newcomers were their own men, and ordered them below. "There is no occasion for you to keep on deck until you are summoned," shouted the captain.



Stupefied with astonishment when Francis and his men rushed to the poop, the Genoese officers handed over their swords. The sailors sleeping in the fore-castle also surrendered at once to a party of the Pluto's crew. All the prisoners were placed under guard in the captain's cabin. Then Francis realised that the Pluto was sailing with a Genoese fleet, whose lights twinkled on both sides, not very far away.



There had been no noise in the Pluto, and the Genoese in the other ships evidently suspected nothing. Francis ordered the Pluto's light to be put out—he hoped to leave the fleet unnoticed. Then he recognised another captured Venetian vessel, and resolved to try to retake her too. If this could be done by surprise, both ships could quietly drop out of the escorting fleet under cover of darkness.

Has success gone to Francis's head; will he be lucky twice? See next week's instalment

The Children's Newspaper, May 3, 1956

Continuing

BLUE JOHN SECRET

by Garry Hogg

My sister Nessa and I, with our guardian, Bruce, are staying in Derbyshire with friends of Bruce, Mr. and Mrs. Brownlow and their son John. John believes there is treasure hidden in Bleakshaw Cavern, one of the old lead mines, and that we can reach it by a back entrance. One day a stranger, whom we had previously seen acting suspiciously, forces our car off the road. We all escape injury but decide to reveal to Bruce all we know about the hidden treasure.

11. Into the Cavern!

To our disappointment, when we came down to breakfast next morning, Bruce was nowhere to be seen.

"He had a late phone-call, after you had gone up to bed," Mrs. Brownlow told us. "Dick went off with him first thing this morning."

We looked at one another, Nessa, John and I, feeling very flat. Somehow, after a series of phone-calls the evening before, and the suspicion we had had when we looked at Bruce afterwards that things were developing, it was disappointing to find that both he and Dick had departed on their own. Today, surely, something ought to happen?

Tough work

"We'll work ourselves to shadows out at Bleakshaw," John announced the moment breakfast was over. "Otherwise the day will go on for ever. Come on."

It was a good idea, and we gathered together our usual enormous supply of sandwiches and cake and fruit that the cook always seemed able to produce at a minute's notice, called out goodbye to Mrs. Brownlow, and then set off.

Work on the "back door" to Bleakshaw had gone very slowly during the past few days that we had been there. "We must have struck a specially tough section of rock," John said. "But we'll jolly well get through it—or else!"

He swung his pick mightily at it, and Nessa and I stood back, each of us armed with a crowbar, ready to lever away when he had made a wedge-shaped hole for us to get our points into.

"Bust—will you!" John exploded, nearly purple in the face with the effort he was making.

And, obediently, bust it did!

With a loud wrenching sound, a huge long splinter from the side of the cleft he was working on broke slowly away from the main rock and tilted over, to hang poised at a dangerous angle.

"Torches!"

"Stand clear!" yelled Nessa and I, forgetting for once to keep our voices lowered. John leapt backwards.

"Gosh!" he said. "Now, that's something like!"

We approached it warily, after waiting for a minute or two to make quite sure it was not going

to do anything funny. Then, with pick and crowbars extended before us, we set to work to lever it backwards so that it would crash down and disappear as the smaller fragments had done in the past.

"Here goes!" shouted John.

The long grey splinter of rock, like a crocodile balancing on its tail, tipped backwards, scraped and scratched against the supporting rock, and at last, with a harsh grinding sound, vanished completely. Tensely, we listened. And, sure enough, a few seconds later there was a mighty SPLASH! and we knew this last giant fragment had plunged down into the hidden water running swiftly far beneath.

"Torches!" commanded John, and for once he was unable to control the excitement he was feeling.

Forgetfulness

We had a torch each. For each day we had felt sure that at any moment we should at last force our way in through that cleft, and so be a step nearer—a dark step nearer, it is true—to the great discovery.

It was darker even than we had expected, and our three torches, powerful as they were, seemed to throw precious little light on the scene. John went first. Nessa followed close behind him, and I, rather reluctantly, I must admit, brought up the rear.

"Half a mo'," John said. "We've forgotten to rope up."

SECRET CODES AND SIGNALS

15. The Carpenter's Cipher

IN the Carpenter's Cipher the alphabet is depicted by 26 short strokes, each a quarter of an inch apart. These are marked with the letters of the alphabet, as you see in the sketch.

To cipher a message write out the text and, with a ruler, measure the distance between the letters. These distances are noted down and act as the cipher.

6½"
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
1½" ¾" 1¼" 12½" 1" ¼" 1"

The first letter is measured from the starting line; other dimensions are taken from the last measured letter to the next in the cipher. It is often necessary to measure backwards—from right to left. These figures are distinguished by adding another unit, say ten, to the measured distance. From N to D measures 2½ inches and, following the above rule, the distance will be shown as 12½ inches.

In the diagram are the measurements in cipher of the two words: Find him.

In our excitement we had. So he and Nessa stood still while I cautiously retreated to the place where we had parked a coil of thin, strong rope for just this very moment. Hanging on to one end of it, and looping this over one shoulder and round my waist below the other, I threw the remainder of the coil forward over Nessa's head to John, and stood still, shining my torch on to them while they too roped up.

"O.K.?" asked John, simply quivering to be off.

"O.K.," said Nessa and I, and we set off, all three torches flashing to left and to right and upwards, but especially down at our feet. A crack on the head would be unpleasant; but the sudden vanishing of the floor beneath our feet would be a good many times more so!

Bottomless channel

At first the floor was fairly level, dipping only very slightly. Solid rock, it seemed to be, with a rock wall on our left, near enough to touch with our finger-tips. On the right, the rock that had been, so to speak, the other door-jamb was a good deal farther away from us now. And uncomfortably close at hand while we moved forward, was an apparently bottomless channel of darkness which our torches could not begin to penetrate. From somewhere far down below, out of sight in the depths of that channel, there was swiftly flowing water. The noise it made came up at us frighteningly.

"Watch carefully, John, won't you," Nessa said in a low voice, and I knew she was far from enjoying all this. What was it she had said, days and days ago, to Bruce? "To be quite honest, I would rather spend my time gliding. I like to be able to see where I am going." Well, it was not too easy to see where we were all going just now, I must admit!

The sound of the water grew less loud after a little while, and I was not sorry. Somehow it had been rather disturbing to know that sufficient water to make all that noise was flowing swiftly along, far away out of sight down there! It had conveniently swallowed up all the slabs of rock that we had chipped away and sent spinning down; it could equally well swallow up any human being who might happen to miss his footing and also go spinning down.

"Go on"

In fact, when I stopped to consider what we were doing, there was a moment when I thought I ought to call out a loud and vigorous HALT! Better still, I could lean back on my end of the rope and bring Nessa and John to a standstill—just like that!

"O.K., everybody?" came John's voice from what seemed a very long way away. It sounded surprisingly matter-of-fact, as though he was just out for a stroll over well-known tracks and wanting to make sure that no one was feeling tired.

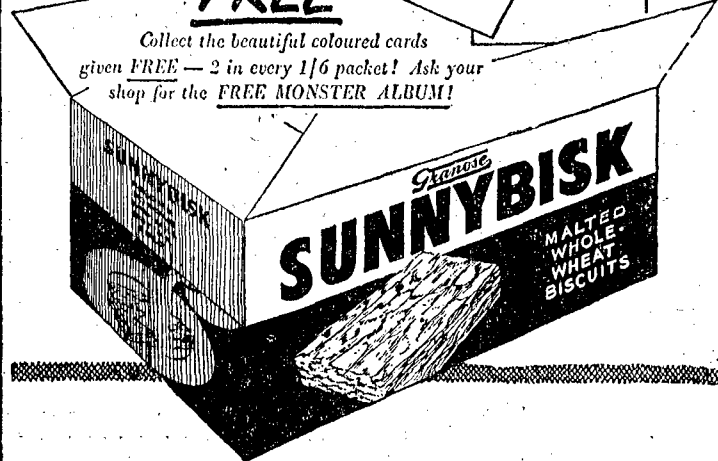
Continued on page 11

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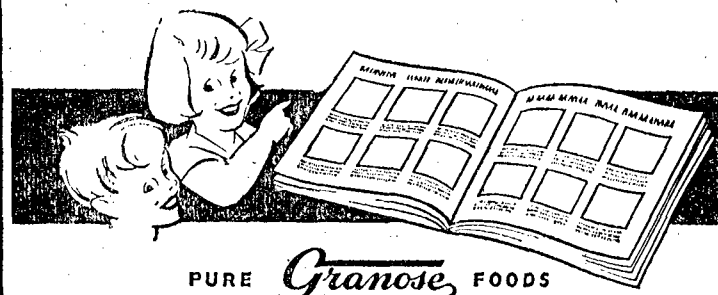
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SPORTS SHORTS

SATURDAY is Cup Final Day, and all eyes will be on Birmingham City and Manchester City, who were beaten in last season's Final. The Mancunians have appeared in five Finals, and have won the trophy on two occasions (1904 and 1934). But Birmingham have only once before appeared in a Cup Final—in 1931, when they lost to West Bromwich Albion.

Olympic hopes

LAST September, after establishing British records for the 100 and 110 yards free-style swimming, Fearn Ewart returned with her parents to Ceylon, and it seemed that she would be lost to our championships. Recently, however, Fearn returned to work in this country, and is now training hard to win a place in our Olympic team.

Another swimmer who has her eye on Melbourne is Daphne Wilkins, Britain's best quarter-miler and three times chosen as Swimmer of the Year. After captaining the British team in the Vancouver Empire Games, Daphne announced she would give up swimming to concentrate on her career. Now she has more time for the sport, and is included among our Olympic possibilities.

IAN JOHNSON and **Keith Miller**, captain and vice-captain of the Australian cricketers, have a very full season ahead of them, but one engagement which they will certainly not miss is their investiture at Buckingham Palace, probably on July 24. Johnson and Miller were both awarded the M.B.E. in the New Year's Honours List.

Coach and Colt



Arthur Mitchell, the Yorkshire coach, gives a few words of advice to Douglas Verity, playing for the County Colts. Douglas is the son of the late Hedley Verity, the Yorkshire and England bowler.

Lost ball

THE thick gorse at the 14th hole of the Selby (York) Golf Club has been cut back to make the approaches easier, and no fewer than 900 lost golf balls came to light. More than 160 of the balls are in sufficiently good condition to be put on sale at 2s. each in the professional's shop, while about 500 that are rather discoloured will be remoulded and resold at 2s. 6d. each.

ALTHOUGH the brothers John and James Langridge have now both retired from cricket, the family name may soon be revived. Each has a son with first-class cricket ability. Richard, 17-year-old son of James Langridge, is a valued all-rounder with the Brighton and Hove Grammar School, and John's son Rodney, although only 13, already shows distinct promise as a batsman.

DEREK JOHNSON, of Oxford University, one of Britain's brightest hopes for the Olympic 800 metres title, is so keen to do well in Melbourne in November that he plans to continue his medical studies at Melbourne University during the autumn term. He would spend two months in Australia before the opening of the Games, thus enabling him to become acclimatised.



Taking the medicine ball

Six members of the Cambridge Harriers limber-up with a medicine ball at Charlton Park in South London.

THE Ashgate School Soccer XI, playing in the Derby Schools League, recently played six games in six days to catch up in the league programme. They won all six games, scoring 22 goals and conceding five.

Two young American tennis players of whom we shall hear a lot more are Mimi Arnold and Mary Ann Mitchell, both 16. They live in San Francisco and know a great deal about each other's game—they meet in finals of nearly every junior tournament in which they compete! Mimi is hoping to emulate her mother, the former Ethel Burkhardt, who was a Wightman Cup player.

S for Stampfl

THERE is no mistaking the athletes who are trained by Franz Stampfl, the famous coach who is now in Australia. They wear red vests with a large white S on the front. Many of our leading runners were coached by him before he left the country, and still get tuition by tape recording.

THE Duke of Edinburgh, who is president of the Central Council of Physical Recreation, will visit the Snowdonia National Recreation Centre, Plas-y-Brenin, on June 1. Accompanied by Sir John Hunt, he will see a team of young people from Merseyside and Manchester undergoing a mountaineering course.

THE Olympic Games programme is now taking shape, and it has been stated that 16 countries will contest the hockey tournament, including Britain and the holders, India.

WEMBLEY speedway team contains an uncle and nephew. Brian Crutcher (the nephew) has been the star of the Wembley team for two seasons, but recently he was joined by his uncle, Merv Hannam (three years his senior) from Eastbourne. They run a garage together in Poole.

Flying fencer

BILL HOSKYNs is a business man as well as an international fencer. And he sometimes finds that the one leaves him little time for the other. However, he hopes to overcome that by his purchase of a four-seater plane. Bought primarily for business purposes, the plane will enable him, and other British fencers, to compete abroad more often.

Stamp News

AUSTRALIA will print four special stamps to mark the Olympic Games in Melbourne.

STAMP collectors have sent 17 tons of mail to be postmarked at the Antarctic base at McMurdo Sound.

A HALF-CROWN book of British stamps, issued in 1951 with some of the copies printed upside down, fetched £550 at a London auction.

Two English towns, Harlow and Welwyn Garden City, will appear on Austrian stamps later this year. The stamps are being prepared to mark the International Housing and Town Planning Congress to be held in Vienna in July.

A STAMP to honour the Royal Flying Doctor Service is being considered in Australia.

THE BLUE JOHN SECRET

Continued from page 9

I realised then, perhaps for the first time, what lay behind that regular practising of rock-leaping, and all the exercises he was always doing, "to keep myself fit," as he always said when we mocked him about it.

We came at length to what at first seemed an impenetrable barrier of stalactites and stalagmites that practically met midway between the rock floor and the cavern roof. "Now what?" Nessa asked, as we came to a halt.

"What do you suppose?" asked John. His voice had become hard, and sort of unfriendly, the way it had sounded in the early days, when he was suspicious of us. "Go on, of course," he said gruffly. "What else *could* we do?"

There was room, now, for us to stand all three in line abreast, and we proceeded to do so, having made certain that there was no treacherous gap in the floor to left or right of the central line we had been taking. I was glad to think

that John and I carried in our pockets a supply of spare batteries, for we had been using our torches pretty constantly for what now seemed ages.

"I'm going through," John announced. "Light me, you two."

With that, he set to work to squirm sideways through the least difficult of the gaps between the stalagmites and stalactites.

We listened to him grunting and groaning as he squeezed himself farther and farther in, his left leg first, and then drawing his right leg slowly and painfully after him. It was comforting to think that where someone of his build could go, Nessa and I who were not so broad as he was and a good deal more supple, could certainly follow.

Suddenly he let out a yell that echoed round the dark cavern and set our spines tingling and the hair rising on the back of our necks.

"I've found something!" he yelled. "Come quickly, both of you!"

To be continued

THE TROUT THAT CHANGED COLOUR

New Zealand has lost its famous fish. Harvey, the trout which changed colour, has died at the age of five years five months.

This fish was a popular entertainer at the Taniwha Springs in Rotorua, and his owner had him insured at Lloyds for £100 "against all risks of mortality, excluding death from war, riots, or earthquakes."

Normally reddish-brown in front and green at the back, his colours abruptly changed places when he was fed or annoyed.

Harvey will be missed, but fortunately another fish with the same colour-changing gift arrived at Taniwha Springs last year. Named Harvieta, she will doubtless take over Harvey's rôle as star performer.

LOOKING AT THE SKY

VENUS AT ITS BRIGHTEST

VENUS now presents a most radiant spectacle in the evening, high in the western sky. The planet is almost at its greatest brilliance, which will be reached by May 16, though it will not then be at its nearest to us, as might be inferred.

At present Venus is 48,700,000 miles away, a little more than half the distance of the Sun. The planet will not be at its nearest until June 22, when it will be only about 26,500,000 miles away.

Viewed through even a small telescope, Venus is now a crescent, as shown in the diagram. This crescent form has grown wider between the cusps during recent weeks, and will continue to do so for the next six weeks. But all the while the crescent will gradually become more slender, until it resembles the crescent of a "day old" Moon.

VANISHING PLANET

By that time Venus will have nearly passed from naked-eye vision, and, being almost between us and the Sun, will be lost in the sunset glow. The planet will ultimately pass beneath the Sun on June 22, at a distance of about three times the Sun's apparent width away from the solar disc. Of course, Venus will then be quite invisible, and will vanish from the evening sky for the rest of this year.

As can be inferred from the dia-

gram, we see at present only about a quarter of its sunlit hemisphere. If we could see all of it, Venus would appear like a little Sun lighting up the Earth's landscapes with a silvery beauty at night. It even casts a shadow now.

This is, in fact, very much as our world would appear now as seen from Venus, for the Earth, with an equatorial diameter of 7927 miles, is almost the same size as Venus (7600 miles).

If Venusians existed, if they possessed telescopes and were blessed with clear skies, they would also see what we never see—that is, the other side of our Moon.

However, very little of the Earth or the heavens could ever be seen from the surface of Venus, so densely is it covered with clouds. These clouds produce the silvery whiteness by their high reflective power, or *albedo*, as astronomers call it.

It is also owing to the lack of definite markings on the clouds that it has been impossible to decide at what angle Venus rotates, or how long the planet takes to do so. It is hoped that radar may eventually solve this tantalising secret.

The fleeting Mercury is now to

be seen low in the west during the next two weeks, and Venus will aid in locating this little world which only looks like a bright first-magnitude star with a yellowish hue.

Mercury sets, at present, about 10.30, Summer Time, and the Sun sets about 8.30, so there is only a limited period in which to find Mercury. Between 9 and 10 o'clock Mercury's position will be found midway between Venus and the position where the Sun had previously set.

As Mercury will soon be speeding to the right towards where the Sun had set, it will, in a couple of weeks' time, be difficult to perceive, and soon after will be gone from view.

BETWEEN US AND THE SUN

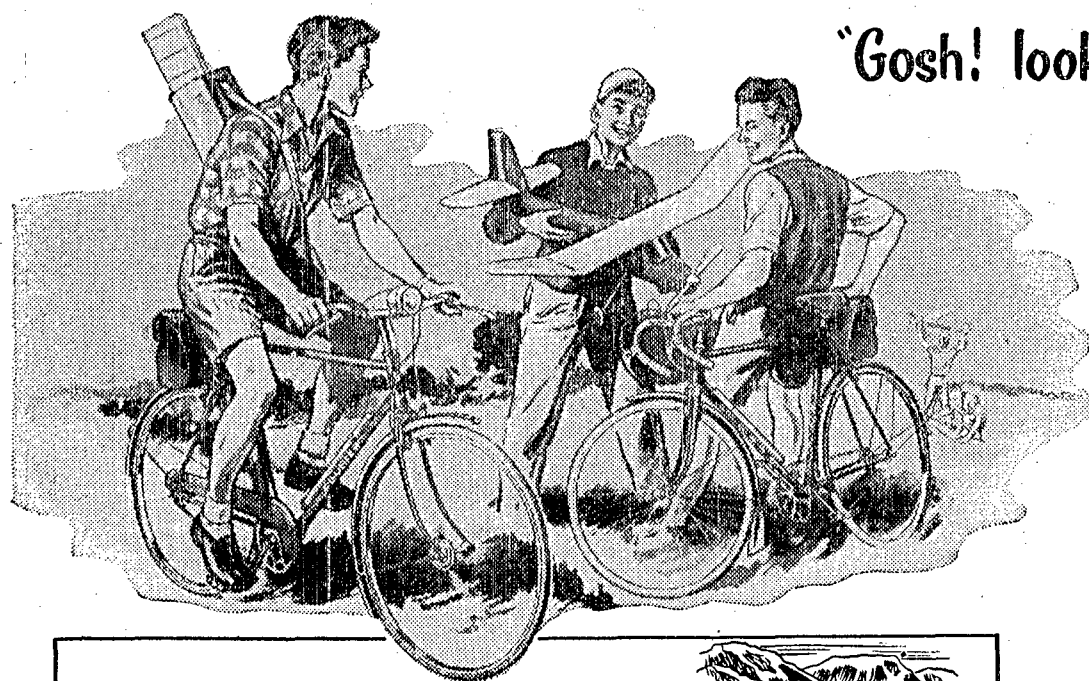
This little world, only 3100 miles in diameter, now presents a phase similar to that of Venus, as shown in the diagram. This also shows how much smaller it appears telescopically, for Mercury is much farther away than Venus.

At present it is about 58 million miles off, but will not remain long at this distance or this phase, for Mercury is rapidly coming between us and the Sun, below which it will pass on May 26. By that time this little sun-baked world, then only about 30 million miles from the Sun, will have passed from our vision.

G. F. M.



The phases and relative sizes of Venus and Mercury at the present time



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TIME PIECE

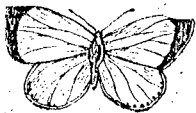
JOHNNY: Robinson Crusoe must have had plenty of spare time at weekends.

Teacher: What makes you think that?

Johnny: My Dad said that most of his work was done by Friday.

SPOT THE . . .

HOLLY BLUE BUTTERFLY, as it flutters in the vicinity of the trees from which it takes its name. The wings are of a lovely pale blue, with black tips to the forewings and the undersides are marked with small black dots.



There are two broods of these delightful insects, the first being in Spring. The females of the early brood lay their eggs in the flower buds of holly trees. The caterpillars devour the flower buds and young holly berries. Eggs laid in the summer are deposited on ivy. The larvae which hatch resemble the ivy stalks so closely that they are extremely difficult to detect.

NONSENSE LIBRARY

A PERIOD OF HISTORY, by George Ian Tyme.

The Planet, by V. Nuss.

Aeroplanes, by A. V. Ation.

Broken Teeth, by I. X. Tractem.

Not a Clue, by M. T. Head.

BEDTIME TALE

MISS PARKER SOLVES THE PROBLEM

Now Mr. Portly was better he could sit outdoors, but not on the damp ground. So the children made him a bed on the lawn in a wooden apple box, and there he sat, dozing in the sunshine, with Miss Parker sitting on the wall nearby.

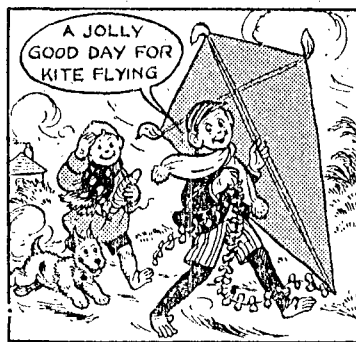
But presently she went off to investigate a noise in another garden, and soon afterwards Monty appeared on the wall and spied Mr. Portly in his bed.

Now, because Monty had lived in a box with his mother, cat-in-box meant Mother to his kitten mind, and he jumped down and leapt in joyfully on top of Mr. Portly.

Poor Mr. Portly was so startled, and still half asleep, that he leapt out and went to ground under a bush, leaving Monty in possession.

Here, a moment later, Ann found him. She put him back on the wall and restored Mr. Portly to his bed.

When she had gone indoors, Monty jumped down again and



FILL IN THE RIVERS

The numbers 1 to 9 here all represent names of British rivers. Can you say what they are?

It was a fine morning, and the sun was shining as Peter got up and began to 1 his clothes. He decided to 2 his new 3 jacket. He could hear a 4 cooing in the elm trees, and watched the swallows 5 after insects. He had breakfast, and soon afterwards sallied 6 on his journey to school.

Going through the garden he saw his cat 7, ready to spring at a bird which was perched on the fence, but it flew away just in time.

As he walked on, he could not help thinking of the 8 that was to be held at school that day. He went through the woods, as usual, and saw his friend the woodcutter going to work with his 9 on his shoulder.

Answers in column 5

WARM WELCOME

MOTHER: Now, Malcolm, come along and say hallo to Commander Penguin, who has just returned from an Antarctic expedition.

Malcolm: Oh, hallo, sir, do come a little nearer to the fire—you must be awfully cold.

TAKING NOTE

SAID the lion: "On music 1 note,

But something is wrong with my throat;

When I practise a scale,

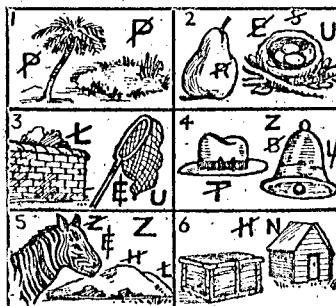
The listeners quail,

And flee at the very first note!"

NAME THE NUTS

THE answers in these puzzles in picture are all varieties of nuts. Can you solve them?

Answers in column 5



CAUGHT

BOY SCOUT (telephoning to the police): A man down here has just been robbed by three armed men, and I've got one of them.

Policeman: Which one have you got?

Boy Scout: The man who was robbed.

ANCIENT POSER

This is one of the old riddles of our ancestors which may be new to some readers. It is based on a Biblical subject. See if you can guess the answer.

BENEATH the Heavens a creature once did dwell (As sacred writers uncontested tell).

'Twas on this earth his vital breath he drew;

He never sinned, nor mortal evil knew.

He never shall be raised from the dead,

Nor at final judgment show his head.

And yet in him there was a soul which must

Suffer in hell or reign among the just.

Answer in column 5

GOOD ADVICE

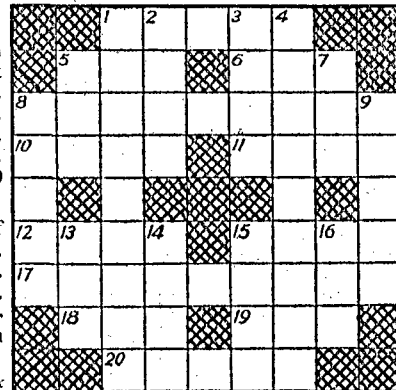
"OUR tiny nest is built on a bough,"
Said the red-throated humming-bird;
"Our home on the ground," trilled the skylark;
"It's really the very last word";
"Our bag-shaped nest," sang the oriole,
"Hangs high from the branch of a tree";
"Now take my advice," cried the crested grebe,
"And let your house float, just like me."

Crossword puzzle

READING ACROSS. 1 Sudden terror. 5 Part of a circle. 6 At this moment. 8 Of the elements. 10 Urn. 11 Swelling on the eyelid. 12 Give up. 15 Generations. 17 Method of dealing with a thing. 18 Busy insect. 19 Anger. 20 Former rulers of Russia.

READING DOWN. 1 Chief of a Republic. 2 Highest point. 3 Hostels. 4 They live in cottages. 5 Alabama. 7 Route. 8 Turn out. 9 Smallest. 13 Period. 14 Consumes. 15 Title of Mohammedan ruler. 16 Compass point.

Answer next week



MISSING NUMBER

POLICEMAN to professor of mathematics: "So you saw the accident, sir. Can you remember the number of the car that drove off?"

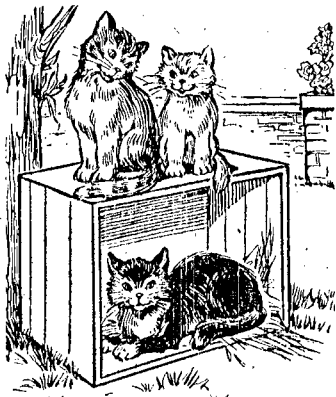
"No, I'm afraid I can't. But I remember noticing that if it were multiplied by fifty, the cube root of the product would be exactly equal to the sum of the digits reversed."

ANSWERS TO QUIZ CORNER

1. A substance consisting of microscopic plants and animals which float in the ocean. All fish feed on them.
2. Queen Victoria, in January 1901.
3. Fitcher in baseball, love in tennis, duck in cricket, serum in Rugby football.
4. St. George of England; St. Andrew of Scotland; St. Patrick of Ireland; and St. David of Wales.
5. Alderney.

BRAN TUB ANSWERS

Fill in the Rivers. 1. Don, 2. Wear, 3. Tweed, 4. Dove, 5. Dart, 6. Forth, 7. Crouch, 8. Test, 9. Axe
Name the nuts. Almond; peanut; walnut; hazel; Brazil; chestnut
Ancient poser. Jonah's whale



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